

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:

Shinya Kadono et al

Serial No.: 10/569,871

Filed: February 28, 2006

For: PICTURE CODING METHOD,  
PICTURE DECODING METHOD,  
PICTURE CODING APPARATUS,  
PICTURE DECODING APPARATUS

Patent Examiner: Not yet assigned

Group Art Unit: 2624

Confirmation No. 8451

April 5, 2007

Costa Mesa, California 92626

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sirs:

Prior to the examination of the merits of the above-identified case, please enter the following: